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COUNTRY East Germany

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SUBJECT Military Information from the Koenigsbrueck
Troop Training Grounds

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. On 15 September 1952, 5 trucks towing 85-mm AA guns

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[redacted] left the Neues Lager west of the Koenigsbrueck-Schwepnitz road and proceeded toward the Weissbach railroad station. They were followed by 11 more AA guns coupled to trucks and a field kitchen. [redacted] were identified. Ten trucks towing 50X1-HUM guns [redacted] moved out of Pohra to Neues Lager. On 16 September, 5 x 85-mm AA guns and 12 trucks were loaded at the Weissbach railroad station and [redacted] dispatched to Chemnitz and Zwickau. (1) 50X1-HUM

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2. At the Koenigsbrueck troop training grounds during the period from 5 to 19 September 1952, [] at the beginning of September, young soldiers with a 6-month term of service relieved trained personnel and were employed in the hospital in Schmorkau. [] The 27 soldiers wearing red-black epaulets included 4 men of a tank unit from Dresden, 7 men of an artillery unit from Eilenburg, 15 men from the 8th Div and 1 man from the barracks installation in Koenigsbrueck. On 8 September, [] 130 air force soldiers, mostly recruits, were stationed in a separate section of the hospital, coming from the nearby airfield and suffering from damaged spines, fractures of the legs and arms and internal injuries. [] the 19th Tank Div, whose headquarters was in Camp Schmorkau, was at the troop training grounds. The 27th Tank Regt from Dresden was also stationed there. The 7th Tank Regt from Dresden was located just west of Schmorkau in the area of the former sheep farm. The 27th Regt was quartered in the area adjacent to the north. Engineer troops were located in the area between Neues Lager Koenigsbrueck and the billeting area of the 9th Mtrcl Regt and northwest of Schwepnitz in the area of the Grosse Triemig Lake. An artillery [] unit was stationed in Bohra, 3 km west-northwest of Neues Lager, together with tanks and rocket launchers. Advance parties of the 27th Tank Regt in the strength of a company had left for the military post on 19 September and an advance party of the tank unit from Wurzen in the strength of 80 men on 15 September. The tank unit from Klotzsche was allegedly to remain for the time being. [] After early August, 75 per cent of the NCOs and EM with a 1 1/2-year or a 2-year term of service were replaced by a corresponding number of NCOs and recruits from the U.S.S.R. [] the troops were not demobilized but reassigned to posts in Poland and in the western part of the U.S.S.R. and [] the troops did not like this measure. [] new 2-axle vehicles assigned to the troops at training equaled about 25 percent of the equipment. The units complained about

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the shortage of motor vehicles. A large-scale field exercise involving all units at the troop training grounds was held from 6 to 8 September. There was firing practice at towed air sleeve targets by semi-automatic and automatic AA guns, at night by means of searchlight. The targets were towed by twin-engine aircraft which flew at altitudes of from 800 to 1,000 meters. Groups of up to four fighters were repeatedly seen strafing the enemy positions.

Intensive gas-defense instruction was given to the troops for about three months and troops and guard details marching out as well as the officer on duty always carried a gas mask. During recent weeks, several soldiers committed suicide. Three soldiers who had seriously wounded themselves, had to be hospitalized and died in the hospital. Two of them refused any medical treatment and cursed Stalin and Bolshevism. Mail arriving at the hospital in the morning was individually censored by the political officer, handed to the soldiers after dinner, had to be read in the presence of the political officer and subsequently burnt. On 8 September, 4 trucks, each towing a 37-mm AA gun

moved along the troop training grounds toward Neues Lager.

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3.

4. On 12 September, the Nachrichtenschule south of the Koenigsbrueck railroad station was occupied by about 1,000 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. JS tank entered the installation on 11 September. On all days during the period of observation, groups of up to 150 soldiers practiced firing, engaged in combat drill and signal communication practice in the billeting area and adjoining training grounds. Motor vehicles observed

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5. Between 12 and 15 September, the Altes Lager northwest of the railroad station was still occupied by a fatigue detail of soldiers, wearing red-bordered black epaulets including some with artillery insignia, and a fuel and ammunition dump.

6. On 7 September, a camp occupied by 250 to 300 soldiers equipped with rifles, submachine guns, 8 rocket launchers and about 25 tanks was determined north of Schmorkau along the road to Schwepnitz. The tanks were dug so that only part of the turrets could be seen. About 250 soldiers in full uniform and equipped with rifles engaged in obstacle running in the woods near the camp. Part of the obstacle course consisted of dense wire entanglements.

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7. At the beginning of September, during the months of July and August, about 400 tanks were unloaded in Ortrand and Zeisholz east of Ortrand. The tanks were dug-in and camouflaged in the woods between Ortrand and Zeisholz.

8. On 3 September, the Nachrichtenschule south of the Koenigsbrueck railroad station was occupied by about 1,200 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. A mortar unit whose equipment included 6 x 160-mm mortars and an artillery unit whose equipment included 2 x 122-mm field howitzers were observed in the installation. About 40 trucks were noticed.

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Comments.

(1)

elements of the 14th Gds AA Div of the First Gds Mecz Army in Neues Lager were transferred to the uranium mining area in the middle of September 1952.

information from Johannegeorgenstadt revealed

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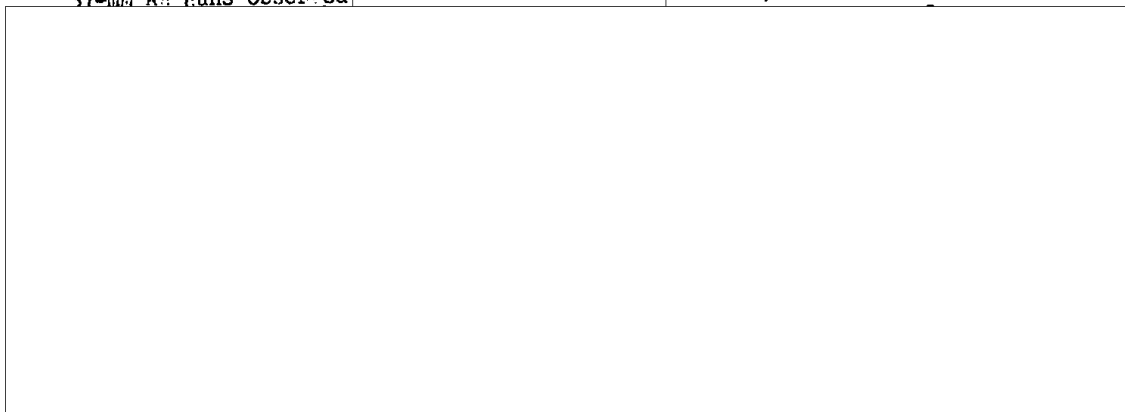
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that numerous AA guns had allegedly been unloaded there since the middle of September. On the other hand, the 10 AA guns which moved to Neues Lager belonged to the 6th Gds AAA Div [redacted] of the IV Arty Corps as well as the 37-mm AA guns observed [redacted] on 8 September.

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